(c) Two repairs workshops and 1109 acres of dry/waste land were acquired on a lease basis from BGML and BEML.

(d) One workshop will be used for manufacturing wagons such as Bogie Railways Special Type (BRST), Bogie Open Military (BOM). The other workshop will be used for fabrication of heavy equipment as well as for welding of structures.

The land will be used to lay a test track for the Armoured Recovery Vehicle (ARV) project and for the proposed (Self Propelled) SP gun (BHIM T6) Project.

Poor Condition of Border Road Connecting Nepal

2973. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the border roads connecting Nepal are in a bad shape, and the road at Raxaul, the last Indian point on the India-Nepal border is a case in point;

(b) whether Government is aware that all these roads require upgradation and better maintenance for promotion of transportation and better trade with Nepal;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to bring the construction and maintenance of these under the control of National Highway Authority of India; and

(d) if so, action plan thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Construction and maintenance of roads is a State subject, except in the case of National Highways. NH-28A (Motihari to Raxaul) is the last point connecting Nepal. To improve the condition of NH-28A, its upgradation has been proposed under the National Highways Development Project (Phase-Ill) to be implemented by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is in the final stage.